

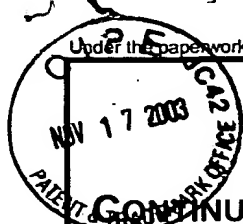
U-18-03

PTO/SB/30 (08-00)

App. for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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REQUEST

FOR

CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Application Number | 09/507,521 |
| Filing Date | February 18, 2000 |
| First Named Inventor | Min Xie et al. |
| Group Art Unit | 2124 |
| Examiner Name | Do, Chat C |
| Attorney Docket Number | 15-CT-5271 |

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DEC 02 2003

Technology Center 2100

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

| | |
|------|--|
| 1. | Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 |
| a. | <input type="checkbox"/> Previously submitted |
| i. | <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____ (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered). |
| ii. | <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____ |
| iii. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| b. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enclosed |
| i. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply (26 pgs.) |
| ii. | <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) |
| iii. | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) |
| iv. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| 2. | Miscellaneous |
| a. | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required) |
| b. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| 3. | Fees |
| | The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed. |
| a. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 070845 |
| i. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) \$770.00 |
| ii. | <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) |
| iii. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Amendment Transmittal (3 pgs.) In Duplicate; Return Postcard |
| b. | <input type="checkbox"/> Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed |
| c. | <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed) |

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Thomas M. Fisher, Armstrong Teasdale LLP | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 47,564 |
| Signature | | Date: | November 17, 2003 |

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

I certify that the documents listed on this form are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below, **Express Mail No.: EV299864053US**, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|------|-------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Thomas M. Fisher, Armstrong Teasdale LLP | | |
| Signature | | Date | November 17, 2003 |

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 202031.

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